

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated December 31, 2007 and Office Action mailed October 18, 2007.

By this Amendment, claims 1-7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to their underlying subject matter to expedite the patenting of allowed claim 8. Further, new claim 9 has been added to direct to a minor variant embodiment of allowed claim 8. Applicant believes that no new issues are created by the introduction of new claim 9. Thus, claims 8 and 9 are currently pending in this application. Support for new claim 9 can be readily found variously throughout the specification and the original claims.

In view of these amendments, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

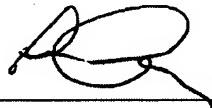
Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mosami et al. (JP Patent Publication No. 57-145684) in view of Braun (U.S. Patent No. 5,711,328). Further, claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mosami et al. in view of Braun and Toshiaki (Japanese Patent No. 5234763). These rejections have been rendered moot by the cancellation of the rejected claims.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are believed to be clearly patentable over the outstanding rejections. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims in light of the above remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Dated: January 7, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-4422 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.